

TROPICAL AFRICA
(Background Comments on NSC 5920)

- I. Our reporting on the areas considered in this paper emphasizes the rapid disintegration of colonial rule in Africa and its replacement by unstable states under inexperienced leadership and generally dependent on the former colonial powers for economic and diplomatic assistance.
 - A. We are expanding our coverage particularly in view of the growing Communist interest in Africa.
 - B. Communist diplomats are established in Ethiopia, Guinea and Ghana and sizeable Soviet credits have been given to Ethiopia and Guinea.
- II. The areas of particularly rapid political development have been in West Africa and the Belgian Congo but the situation in Kenya and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is demanding increasing attention.
 - A. Since the publication of this paper, Brussels has revised its plans and now intends to grant the Congo independence in 1960 instead of insisting on a four year period of Congolese self-government.
 - B. Kenya is likely to take a significant step toward independence as a result of the constitutional conference to be held in London starting 18 January.
 - C. In the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland a deterioration in race relations as well as an increase in the force of African nationalism is likely before the constitutional talks in October in London.